

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9560

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 10879

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IR

SUBJECT: LEND-LEASE CLAIMS AND IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIMS

REF: TEHRAN 10699 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF SEVEN-PART GOI MEMORANDUM ON IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIMS CITED REFTTEL WILL BE FORWARDED VIA AIRGRAM. GOI CLAIMS ON ACCOUNT OF IRANIAN STATE RAILWAYS TOTAL 11,683 MILLION RIALS, OF WHICH 7,324 MILLION IS FOR INTEREST AT 6 PER CENT FOR 28 YEARS. MEMORANDUM SUPPLIES CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON BREAKDOWN OF CLAIM AND ON HISTORY OF UK AND USSR TAKEOVER OF OPERATIONS OF IRANIAN STATE RAILWAY AND GUARANTEE BY ALLIES (UK AND USSR ONLY) IN MARCH 1942 TO COMPENSATE IRAN FOR ALL DAMAGES CAUSED AS A RESULT OF OPERATING IRANIAN RAILWAYS. DOCUMENTATION AS REGARDS RESPONSIBILITY OF USG IN OPERATION OF IRANIAN RAILWAYS IS VAGUE AND INSUBSTANTIAL.
END SUMMARY

2. MEMORANDUM STATES THAT GOI HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT AS A RESULT OF USG FAVORABLE ATTITUDE RE LEND-LEASE CLAIMS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER COUNTRIES (NOTABLY USSR), US CLAIMS ON IRAN WERE

TO BE ABANDONED. IRAN'S PAYMENT OF A FEW ITEMS ON THOSE LIABILITIES WAS MADE ON THE CONDITION THAT THE GREATER PART OF US CLAIMS WOULD BE DROPPED. SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN IRANIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AMOUZEGAR AND AMBASSADORS FARLAND AND MACARTHUR RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO CANCEL ALL CLAIMS ON ACCOUNT OF INTEREST BUT THAT IRANIAN CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES INCURRED BY RAILWAYS WOULD BE GIVEN FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY USG.

3. MEMORANDUM SUMMARIZES FIFTEEN ARTICLES OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT OF MARCH 1942 BETWEEN IRAN AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND USSR CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION OF ALLIED MATERIEL IN AND THROUGH IRAN.

4. MEMORANDUM GIVES A SUMMARY OF UK PROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER 1945 PROPOSING A REVISION OF THE MARCH 1942 AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE CABINET.

5. MEMORANDUM STATES THAT BRITISH EMBASSY INFORMED GOI ON DECEMBER 7, 1942 THAT US MILITARY AUTHORITIES WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION OF SOUTHERN SECTION OF TRANS-IRAN RAILWAY FROM PERSIAN GULF. MEMORANDUM ALSO STATES THAT US COMMAND IN IRAN BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE OVER OPERATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ALL OF IRANIAN RAILWAYS BUT THAT NECESSARY ACTION "TO CLARIFY LEGAL STATUS OF AGREEMENT DID NOT TAKE PLACE." (COMMENT: SOLE CITATION IN MEMORANDUM SUPPORTING VIEW THAT USG EVER INTENDED TO ASSUME COMPLETE CONTROL OF IRANIAN RAILWAYS IS LIMITED TO A US DEPARTMENT OF ARMY HISTORICAL STUDY OF 1952.)

6 . MEMORANDUM GIVES FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE XIII OF MARCH 1942 AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO COMPENSATION BY TWO ALLIED GOVERNMENTS (USSR AND UK) FOR DAMAGES TO ROADS, RAILWAYS AND PORTS. PROVIDES ALSO BREAKDOWN OF COMPUTATION GOI HAS USED FOR REPLACEMENT COSTS, DEPRECIATION AND PERSONNEL COSTS.

7. MEMORANDUM MAKES A CLAIM AGAINST USG ON ACCOUNT OF DAMAGES CAUSED TO IRANIAN STATE RAILWAYS DURING WORLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAR II IN THE AMOUNT OF 11,683 MILLION RIALS.
MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

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